

What is claimed as being new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent of the United States is a follows:

1. A support device for the care and prevention of wounds on the body of a user, comprising:

5 an array of removable cells forming a flexible sheet, each cell removably coupled to at least one other cell, the cells being selectably removably from the array in order to define a space within the sheet which approximates the size of a target area on the body of the user.

10 2. The device of claim 1 wherein each cell has a border and is removably connected to at least one other cell along a portion of the border.

3. The device of claim 1 wherein the cells are suspension devices.

4. The device of claim 1 wherein the removable cells have opposing first and second surfaces and the first surface of each cell is configured for contacting the user.

15 5. The device of claim 4 further comprising a backing coupled to the second surface of the removable cells.

6. The device of claim 5, wherein the backing includes perforations positioned substantially along a border of each cell.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein the cells are gas-filled bubbles.

20 8. The device of claim 6, wherein the second surface comprises one of a hook material and a loop material and the backing comprises the other of the hook material and the loop material.

9. The device of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of each cell is made of a breathable material.

10. The device of claim 7, wherein each cell is removably connected to the backing.

11. The device of claim 1, further comprising a dye configured for marking an approximate outline of the target area onto the first surface of the array of removable cells.

12. The device of claim 1, wherein the removable cells are stanchions made of a cushionable material.

13. The device of claim 4, wherein the space within the sheet is defined by and extends from the first surface through the sheet to the second surface.

14. The device of claim 5, wherein the backing is attached to the sheet such that when at least one cell is removed from the sheet, a portion of the backing in contact with the cell is removed from the backing creating an opening in the backing which next to the space within the sheet.

15. The device of claim 1, wherein the array of cells is configured to support the target area of the user's body without contacting the target area.

16. The device of claim 7, further comprising a pricking device for selectably deflating at least one of the bubbles.

17. A disposable garment for the body of a user, the garment comprising:  
an absorbent portion having a fluid pervious inner sheet, a fluid impervious outer sheet and at least one layer of absorbent material positioned between the inner and outer sheets; and

a wound care and prevention portion coupled to the absorbent portion, the wound care and prevention portion including an array of removable devices forming a generally flexible sheet, the devices being selectably removable from the array in order to define a space within the sheet which approximates the size of a target area on the body of the user.

18. The disposable garment of claim 17, wherein the removable devices are suspension devices.

19. The disposable garment of claim 17, wherein each device is removably coupled to at least one other device.

20. The disposable garment of claim 17, wherein each suspension device has opposing first and second surfaces, and wherein the first surface is configured for contacting the body of the user.

21. The disposable garment of claim 17 wherein the array of devices are configured to support the target area of the user's body without contacting the target area.

22. The disposable garment of claim 17, further comprising a plurality of straps for removably attaching the garment to the body of the user.

23. The disposable garment of claim 17, further comprising a backing removably coupled to the second surface of the devices and connected to the outer sheet of the absorbent portion.

24. The disposable garment of claim 17, further comprising elastic leg bands connected to at least one of the inner and outer sheets.

25. The disposable garment of claim 17, wherein the devices are gas-filled bubbles.

26. The disposable garment of claim 23, wherein the backing includes one of a hook material and a loop material and the second surface of the devices includes the other of the hook material and the loop material.

27. The disposable garment of claim 17, further comprising a dye for marking an approximate outline of the target area onto the first surface of the devices.

28. The disposable garment of claim 17, wherein the space within the sheet is defined by the devices removed from the array.

29. The disposable garment of claim 17, where the garment is a diaper.

30. The disposable garment of claim 17, wherein the wound care portion is

configured to protect the buttocks and a portion of the back area of the user when the user is in a supine position.

31. The disposable garment of claim 25, further comprising a pricking device for selectably deflating at least one of the bubbles.

5           32.     A disposable garment for the body of a user, the garment comprising:  
              an absorbent portion having a fluid pervious inner sheet, a fluid  
impervious outer sheet and at least one layer of absorbent material positioned between  
the inner and outer sheets; and

              a wound care and prevention portion coupled to the absorbent portion, the  
10     wound care and prevention portion including an array of bubbles forming a generally  
flexible sheet, each bubble having opposing first and second surfaces, the first surface  
configured for contacting the body of the user.

33.     The disposable garment of claim 32 wherein the bubbles are gas-filled  
bubbles.

15           34.     The disposable garment of claim 32 wherein the bubbles are selectably  
deflatable from the array in order to define a recess within the sheet which  
approximates the size of a target area on the body of the user;

35.     The disposable garment of claim 34 wherein, the array of gas-filled  
bubbles is configured to support the target area of the body of the user without  
20     contacting the target area.

36.     The disposable garment of claim 32, further comprising a pricking  
device for selectably deflating at least one of the bubbles.

37.     The disposable garment of claim 34, further comprising a dye for  
marking an approximate outline of the target area onto the array of bubbles.

25           38.     A disposable garment for the body of a user, the garment comprising:  
              an absorbent portion having a fluid pervious inner sheet, a fluid

impervious outer sheet and at least one layer of absorbent material positioned between the inner and outer sheets; and

a wound care and prevention suspension portion coupled to the absorbent portion, the suspension portion formed of a resilient, cushionable material.

5           39.     The disposable garment of claim 38 wherein the cushionable material is non-allergic, medical grade foam.

          40.     The disposable garment of claim 39 wherein the suspension portion is configured for the easy removal of at least one segment of the suspension portion in order to define a space within the suspension portion which approximates the size of a target area on the body of the user.

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          41.     The disposable garment of claim 40 wherein the suspension portion is configured to support the target area of the user's body without contacting the target area.

          42.     The disposable means of claim 40 wherein the suspension portion includes perforations to facilitate the removal of at least one segment from the suspension portion by hand without the use of tools.

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          43.     The disposable garment of claim 40, further comprising a dye for marking an approximate outline of the target area onto the suspension portion.

          44.     A method of applying a system for the care and prevention of wounds to the body of the user comprising the steps of:

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                  identifying a target area on the body of the user;

                  obtaining a sheet formed of removable devices;

                  selectably removing at least one device from the sheet to define a space which approximate the target area; and

                  securing the sheet to the body of the user such that the sheet supports the target area without contacting the target area.

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45. The method of claim 44 and further comprising the step of:  
marking the sheet to form an approximate outline of the target area.

46. The method of claim 44 and further comprising the steps of:  
applying a dye to the body of the patient to approximately outline the  
5 target area;  
placing the sheet in contact with the dye and the body of the patient;  
separating the sheet from the patient; and  
using the mark transposed on the sheet from the dye to determine which  
devices to remove.

10 47. The method claim 44 and further comprising the step of:  
applying tape to the sheet at the perimeter of the space.

48. The method of claim 44 wherein the sheet is coupled to an absorbent  
portion having a fluid pervious inner sheet, a fluid impervious outer sheet and at least  
one layer of absorbent material disposed between the inner and outer sheets.

15 49. The method claim 44, wherein the devices are gas-filled bubbles  
coupled to a backing.